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The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" I do not think they can have any preference when they have their turn according to the communal Government Order."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—" Arising out of the answer to the question of my hon. Friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed, may I know whether it is their opinion that Government have no power to exempt candidates from age-limit? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" Not in individual cases."

Khan Bahadur P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—" In view of the fact that Muhammadans are badly represented in this particular department, will Government be pleased to give exemption to this community? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" An amendment should be made to the rules. In certain cases I think the age-limit has been raised from 25 to 27. Muhammadans and depressed classes, I think, come under that."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know whether the age-limit will be raised in the case of the Co-operative department in respect of Mussalmans in reference to the posts of deputy registrar and sub-deputy registrar? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" I shall consider the suggestion."

Veterinary

Number and employment of students who passed the diploma examinations in the Veterinary College.

* 60 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many students have passed in the diploma examinations held in the Veterinary College in 1930, 1931 and in 1932; and

(*b*) how many of these have so far been given employment in the Madras Veterinary Department ?

A.—(*a*) 85.

(*b*) 29 were given employment. Three of those appointed in 1931 had to be discharged as a measure of retrenchment.

Local Self-Government

Licence fee schedules for buses since January 1932.

* 61 *Q.*—Mr. F. E. JAMES: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many District Board licence fee schedules for buses have been sanctioned since January the 1st, 1932;

(*b*) how many of such schedules represent an increase and how many a decrease in licence fees on the previous schedule;

(*c*) what is the average District Board licence fee on a 18-seater bus in the Presidency (excluding Madras City); and

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(*d*) what is the average total amount levied on each 18-seater bus under District Board licence fees and provincial taxation throughout the Presidency (excluding Madras City)?

A.—(*a*) The licence fee schedules of the Anantapur, Coimbatore, West Godavari, Madura and the Nilgiri District Boards have been sanctioned since the 1st January 1932.

(*b*) There was no change in the rates of licence fees in respect of the Anantapur and Coimbatore District Boards (existing rates under the old by-laws were approved). The West Godavari District Board effected a reduction in the rate of fees on motor buses from half a pie per seat per day per mile to 5/12th pie per seat per day per mile. In the case of the Madura and the Nilgiri District Boards there was a slight increase as shown below. The revised rates in the two districts are considerably lower than the average for other districts in the Presidency.

Rates prior to 1st January 1932.	Rates after 1st January 1932.
Madura District Board—	
(i) Vehicles licensed to carry more than 16 passengers—Rs. 200 per half year.	(i) Vehicles licensed to carry more than 16 passengers —Rs. 200 per half year.
(ii) Vehicles licensed to carry over 10 but less than 17 passengers—Rs. 75 per half year.	(ii) Vehicles licensed to carry over 10 but less than 17 passengers—Rs. 100 per half year.
(iii) Vehicles licensed to carry over 5 but less than 11 passengers—Rs. 25 per half year.	(iii) Vehicles licensed to carry over 5 but less than 11 passengers—Rs. 50 per half year.
(iv) Vehicles licensed to carry 5 or less passengers—Rs. 15 per half year.	(iv) Vehicles licensed to carry 5 or less passengers—Rs. 25 per half year.
The Nilgiris District Board—	
(1) Vehicles intended to carry over 16 passengers—Rs. 30 per seat per year.	Rs. 18 per seat per year.
(2) Vehicles of 10–16 seating capacity—Rs. 15 per seat per year (average).	
(3) Vehicles of 7–10 seating capacity—Rs. 13 per seat per year (average).	

(*c*) About Rs. 960 a year.

(*d*) About Rs. 1,500 a year.

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" In view of the great disparity in licence fees between one district and another, will Government instruct the district boards to raise the rate of fees wherever they find it low? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—" It is a matter entirely for the district boards to move."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" In view of the fact that the proceeds under the Motor Vehicle Taxation Act have

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gone much below the anticipated revenue, will the Government be pleased to give the boards a lead in the matter? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—" The complaint is that the licence fees now charged combined with the tax under the Motor Vehicles Taxation are very high and have driven a number of buses off the road. If in any particular district, the licence fees are very low, and if the district board moves in the matter, the Government will consider any proposal to raise the fees on its merits. But it is entirely a matter for the district board to move and satisfy the Government that the raising of the rates is necessary and justifiable."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know whether the Government will be pleased to amend the Act fixing a minimum and a maximum? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—" That question is under consideration and there is also a Bill given notice of in which the matter will be considered."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know whether a sum of 3 to 4 lakhs is due to the Corporation of Madras in respect of this provincial tax? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—" It is being paid in instalments."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" When is the last instalment going to be paid to the Corporation? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—" As soon as the amount is collected, and the division is made among the local bodies."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know the number of instalments paid so far out of the tax to the local bodies? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—" The instalments for 1931-32 have been paid."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" Is it not that only two instalments were paid and not others and on that account the local bodies and municipalities are suffering? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—" What has been collected for 1931-32 has been paid."

Condition of motor transport in the Presidency.

* 62 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total amount of provincial tax due from motor vehicles for the year 1931–32 and the amount actually collected in 1931–32;

(*b*) the number of motor vehicles that were plying for hire at the beginning of 1931–32 and their number at the present time; and

(*c*) whether any enquiry has been made regarding the plight of motor transport business in the several districts of this province?